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NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

400 YEARS LATER A STATISTICAL PORTRAIT





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NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

400 YEARS LATER

A STATISTICAL PORTRAIT

A co-operative project of the Newfoundland Regional Office of Statistics Canada and the Newfoundland Statistics Agency to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Sir Humphrey Gilbert's taking possession of Newfoundland in the name of Queen Elizabeth I.

Available from Statistics Canada

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Statistics Canada

Statistique Canada

Foreword

As the people of Newfoundland celebrate the 400th anniversary of Sir Humphrey Gilbert's arrival in St. John's to claim Newfoundland for the British Crown, Statistics Canada wishes to commemorate the occasion with this profile of the province.

This booklet of historical and contemporary information about Newfoundland and Labrador, its people and their culture, is our tribute to the individuality and strength of the men and women who laid the foundations of modern-day Newfoundland, despite physical isolation and hardship.

Publication of this booklet was a cooperative effort of the Newfoundland Statistics Agency and Statistics Canada's regional office in Newfoundland, with technical support from Statistics Canada in Ottawa.

On behalf of all employees of Statistics Canada, I extend my warmest wishes to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador on the occasion of their 400th Anniversary.



Martin B. Wilk
Chief Statistician of Canada
Ottawa

June 10, 1983



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Introduction

On August 5, 1583 Sir Humphrey Gilbert planted the Royal Standard near the water front of St. John's and claimed Newfoundland as a possession of Elizabeth the First of England. One of his companions, surveying a landscape hardly touched by Europeans wrote, "What can I saywhen I see nothing but a very wilderness?".

Newfoundland was the first overseas territory to be claimed as an English possession and thus Gilbert began a process which created the British Empire and Commonwealth. When Gilbert came to Newfoundland he found an Island populated by a small number of native Beothuks, although in summer the fishery was already heavily exploited by thousands of visiting fishermen from Spain, Portugal, France and England. Soon the cod fishery was of "more value to the nations of Europe than the silver mines of Peru", and Newfoundland became known as the "Grand Cod fishery of the Universe". Because it was a "grand fishery" Newfoundland's development after 1583 was unique in the annals of colonization and settlement. Newfoundland was the first overseas territory to be claimed by England but it did not achieve full colonial status until 1832, by which time other larger and more wealthy colonies in North America had long outstripped her in wealth and population.

A glance at earlier centenaries shows much about the path of Newfoundland's development. By the first centenary in 1683, England had claimed and colonized the area between Cape Race and Cape Bonavista; there was a permanent English population of about 1700 and a flourishing migratory fishery. However, the rest of Newfoundland and all of Labrador was claimed and exploited by France. When the bicentenary occurred in 1783 England had gained sovereignty over both Newfoundland and Labrador but exploitation of the Northern Peninsula and West Coast was inhibited by the exclusive right given to the French to fish in those regions. The English fishery was thriving and the population had reached some 12,000 - mainly concentrated on the Avalon Peninsula. However, Newfoundland had no permanent government, no elected politicians, no civil service and no taxation. By the tri-centenary in 1883 Newfoundland had a population of over 100,000 and was a self governing colony within the British Empire, enjoying the same constitutional position as did her neighbour Canada.

This publication tries to show, through charts and tables, the contemporary conditions in Newfoundland which illustrate the lives of the people in 1983 - the year when we celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of Gilbert's arrival in St. John's. When we look back at earlier centenaries one thing stands out - that in every hundred years Newfoundland has progressed and changed continuously.

Today our population is nearing 600,000 and the standard of living is vastly better than any of our ancestors would have imagined. The fishery is still a vital element in our economy and culture, but it is now but one industry among many.

The book is divided into six units and our aim is to provide the reader with a series of "snapshots" which will illustrate the way of life of the contemporary inhabitants of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Economic Geography

Quick Facts

World Centered on Newfoundland

The Natural Setting

Land and Water

Value of Fish Production

Fishing Vessels and Landings

Farms, Mines, Pulp and Paper Mills, Manufacturing



Tors Cove



Economic Geography

There have always been two opposing views of Newfoundland's climate and landscape. Those who love it share Richard Whitburne's view that "Newfoundland is a veritable treasure house of wild flower life. It enjoys a most favorable climate and is not subject to extremes either of hot or cold. From June to October as a rule the weather is delightful; warm sunny days, tempered by cooling breezes from the sea make Newfoundland an ideal habitation in the summer time. The winter is not so severe as might be imagined. The country as a whole is never snow-bound or ice-bound". On the other hand "there are many (especially amongst those who do not live here) who picture Newfoundland as a cold, bleak, barren island, lying out in the Atlantic Ocean, exposed to all the furies of the elements. They cannot dissociate Newfoundland from perpetual ice, snow, fog and gale".

Whoever is right - and your view depends partly on what time of the year you are in Newfoundland, and which particular place you are living in - it is hardly possible to overestimate the influence of Newfoundland's physical environment - its land forms, climate and natural resources - upon the history and culture of the people. The environment determined why people would come here - mainly to catch cod fish; *who* of all the world's populations would settle here - men from the West of England and Ireland skilled in fishing and curing the fish for a European market, and it forced the settlers to modify their Old World cultures in order to survive physically and economically in the stern environment of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Until recently man could hardly hope to control his environment; he could only hope to exploit its resources and adapt to its demands. The physical formation of the land determined that Newfoundlanders would live in small isolated communities, often completely cut off in winter, and breed a population well used to exploiting every local resource in order to survive.

The old West of England fishermen who came out annually in the 17th and 18th centuries had a rhyme which even now says something about Newfoundland's environment.

*" Were it not for wood water and fish,
Newfoundland were not worth a rush".*

Wood, water and fish; these, especially fish, have been the basic resources which have created Newfoundland. They are still vital elements in its economy and lifestyle, although today one would add mining - the products of the earth, and even more our growing population - since human resources are by far the most important exploitable factors in the late 20th century.

Until recently almost every able bodied person in the Province had to make a living by directly exploiting its natural resources - we were a region of fishermen, subsistence farmers, loggers and miners. Since the Second World War, however, secondary manufacturing and above all "service" industries - education, health, public administration and retailing, have transformed our economy and provided a choice of careers which our ancestors never had.

For many, work is no longer directly linked to the economic geography of the Province and the people live and work in centrally heated homes and drive to and from work in heated cars. Nevertheless the influence of environment continues in our cultural values, our habits of mind and what is seen to be a "Newfoundland way of life". The image of Newfoundland is still that of rock and sea and fishermen.

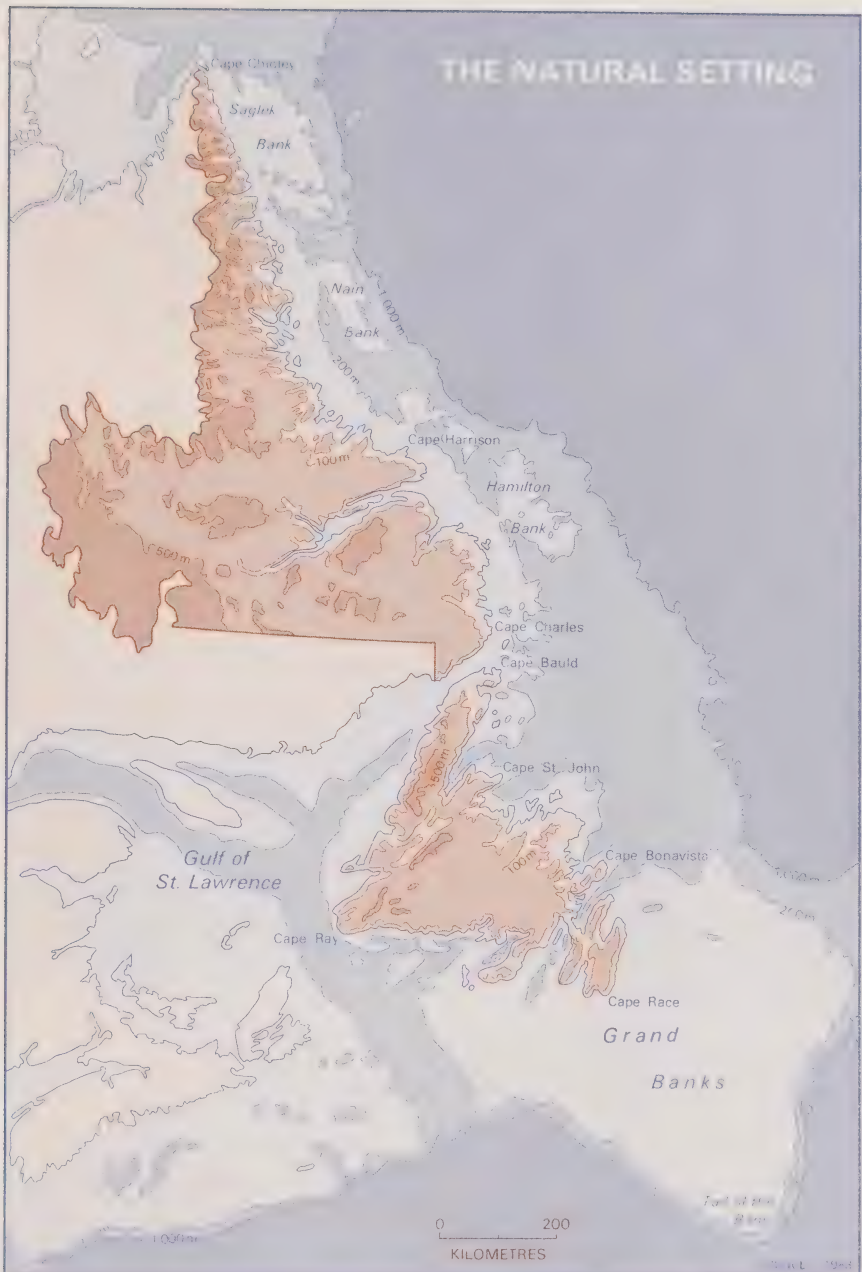
Quick Facts

Economic Geography

Area of Province	404,517 sq. kilometres
Labrador	292,218 sq. kilometres
Island	112,299 sq. kilometres
Area in Freshwater	2.4%
Highest Mountain	Torngat Mountains (Unnamed peak) 1052 m.
Longest River	Churchill River (856 km)
Largest Natural Lake	Lake Melville (3069 km ²)
Most Easterly Point in Canada	Cape Spear, Nfld.
Length of Growing Season (Codroy Valley)	148 days
Annual Hours of Sunshine (Gander)	1,542
Annual Mean Temperature (St. John's)	5.5° C
Annual Precipitation (Goose Bay)	946 mm
Value of Fish Landings (1982)	\$176,201,000
Value of Agricultural Products (1982)	\$ 33,900,000
Value of Mineral Shipments (1982)	\$625,913,000
Number of Licensed Fishermen (1982)	27,379
Number of Fish Plants (1982)	217

THE WORLD CENTERED
ON NEWFOUNDLAND

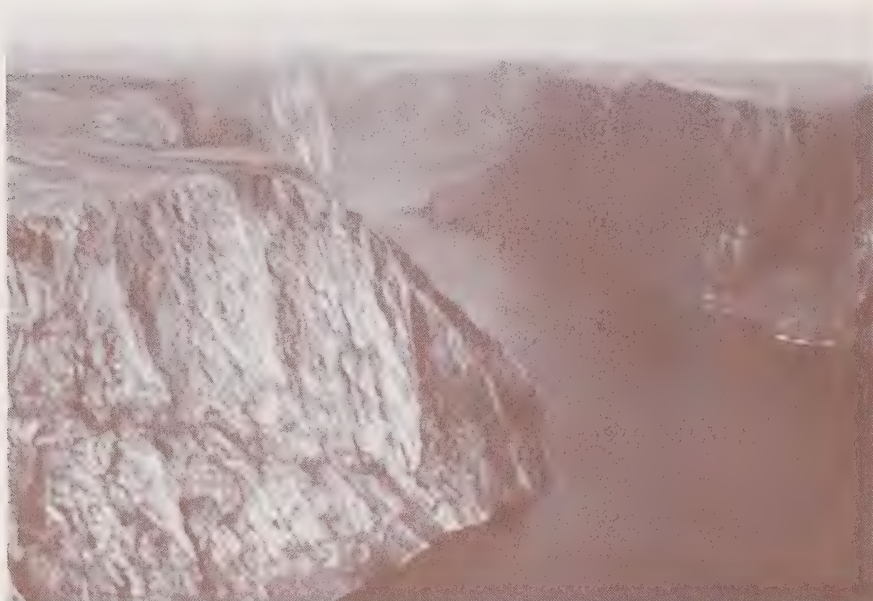
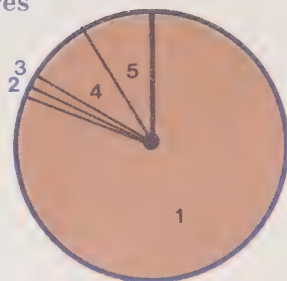




Land and Water

Total 404,517 sq. kilometres

1. Forest land	83.0%
2. Agricultural land	0.5%
3. Urban and cleared	0.5%
4. Wild land	7.6%
5. Fresh water	8.4%



Gros Morne National Park

Value of Fish Production 1981

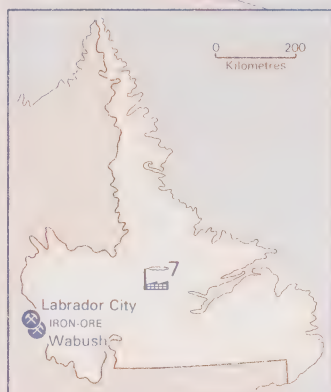
\$457,991,000


1. Cod	43%
2. Flounders	14%
3. Other Groundfish	15%
4. Pelagic and Estuarial fish	11%
5. Shell fish	15%
6. Unspecified	2%



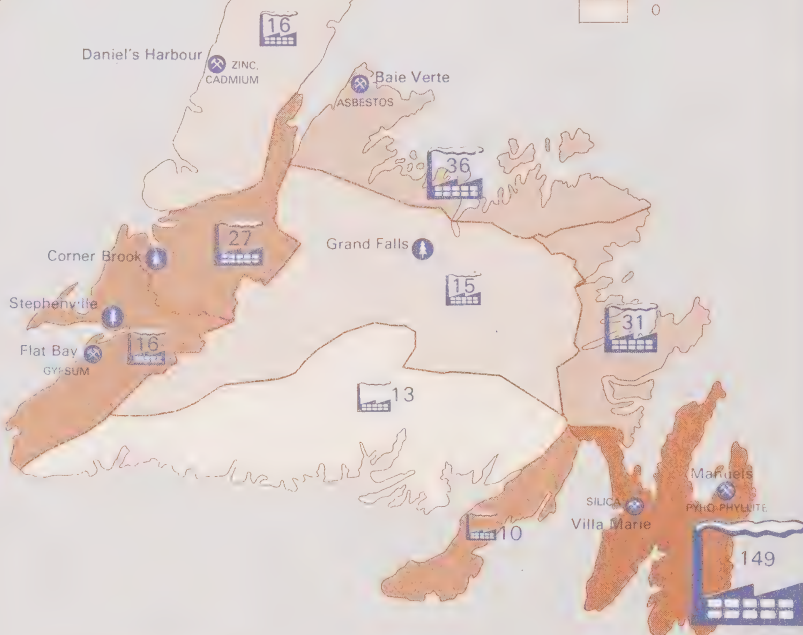
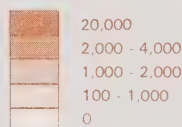


FARMS, MINES, PULP AND PAPER MILLS, MANUFACTURING



- CENSUS DIVISIONS
- ⊗ OPERATING MINES (1983)
- ⬇ PULP AND PAPER MILLS (1983)
-  NUMBER OF MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS BY CENSUS DIVISION (1980)

FARM AREA IN HECTARES BY CENSUS DIVISION (1981)



0 200 400
Kilometres

Population

Quick Facts

Population Distribution

Growth

Urban/Rural

Age and Sex

Housing

Selected Ethnic Groups

Where Newfoundlanders Live

Provincial Migration

Family Portrait

Selected Religions



The Regatta at Quidi Vidi



Population

When Gilbert came to Newfoundland in 1583 the only permanent inhabitants were the Beothuk Indians, but thousands of fishermen from Spain, Portugal, France and England came out to fish every summer. By 1713 Britain had gained sovereignty over the entire Island, while Labrador was joined to the colony in 1763. At that time the permanent population totalled about 12,000 people, almost all of English or Irish extraction, all gaining a living from the fishery, and most living on what was already known as the "Old English Shore" which stretched from Cape Bonavista to Cape Race. What changes have occurred in the past two hundred years?

Most people still live on the East coast - the area first settled by the British and the area most suited for fishing inshore, on the Grand Banks, or even for making voyages to the seal and cod fisheries on the Labrador coast. As the latest figures tell us, the bulk of our population still claims the British Isles as their ancestral homeland. This is reflected in the strength of the major religious denominations of the Province. However, our native peoples have also tended to remain in their traditional places; they have increased in numbers and their lifestyles have been radically changed by the modern world but they hold firmly to the religious beliefs they held in the 18th century. The Inuit are Moravian, the Naskapi, Montagnais and Micmac are Roman Catholic. Of the European settlers, the Irish, the Acadians and the West Coast Highland Scots are Catholic, while the English provide the bulk of the Anglican, United Church, Salvation Army, Pentecostal, Baptist and Adventist congregations. The lowland Scots who settled the Avalon Peninsula are Presbyterian.

The greatest changes in our population distribution occurred in the 19th and 20th centuries. Newfoundland's success in diversifying from total reliance on the fishery in the 20th century has caused the greatest changes. Highland Scots came from Cape Breton to farm and hunt in St. George's Bay. French Acadians migrated from the mainland to farm on the Port au Port Peninsula providing the basis for the growth of population on the West coast. The logging, mining, pulp and paper, and hydro-electric industries created new towns out of the wilderness in Grand and Bishop's Falls, Labrador City and Wabush, and the coming of air travel created communities in Gander, Stephenville and Goose Bay. Small settlements already existed in and around the present city of Corner Brook but the great pulp and paper mill brought thousands into that region from other parts of Newfoundland.

The Second World War brought American and Canadian servicemen to the Province. Most left when their tour of duty expired, but some remained to marry local girls and begin new lives in Newfoundland. Newfoundland's confederation with Canada in 1949 however signalled

the greatest change of all. Small but significant numbers of "Come From Aways" came to Newfoundland or Labrador with skilled professions or trades during the development booms of the period 1950 - 1975, while much larger numbers of Newfoundlanders took advantage of the opportunities to look for work in Ontario, or later in Alberta. More than one in six of all Newfoundlanders currently living in Canada now reside in other provinces. Our province is enriched by newcomers from many parts of the world but the other parts of Canada are even more enriched by the arrival of the Newfoundlanders. We should realize, however, that the movement of Newfoundlanders to the mainland is not a new phenomenon. Until the 1920's large numbers of every generation migrated to the "Boston States" in the U.S.A. while many others found work in the Nova Scotia fisheries or the Cape Breton mines and steel mills.

In the past, Newfoundland had a very high birth rate and one of the longest baby booms in modern history. Thus the average age of Newfoundland's population was low, and the number of families with children large. Our birth rate is dropping as people prefer more of the "good things of life", but the large family is still common, relative to other provinces. Family life remains strong and our divorce rate is, by North American standards, very low.

Although few people migrated to Newfoundland between 1825 and 1960 our high birth rate and strong family structures have meant that a few thousand settlers in Newfoundland and Labrador in the 18th and early 19th century "went forth and multiplied". Most of the present population of the province and perhaps millions more on mainland North America are descended from them.

Quick Facts

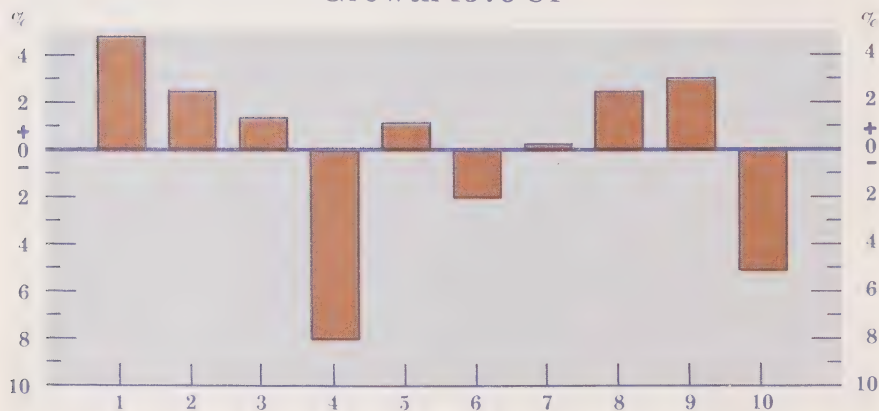
Population

Population 1675	1,659
Population 1981	567,681
Population Under 15 Years	29%
15-64 Years	63%
Over 64 Years	8%
Population 15 years and over	
Single	30%
Married	63%
Widowed	6%
Divorced	1%
Number of Dwellings	148,420
Dwellings Owned	81%
Number of Families	135,145
Average Family Size	3.8
Number of One-Parent Families	13,480
Predominant Ethnic Origin (British)	92%
Bilingual Population	2%

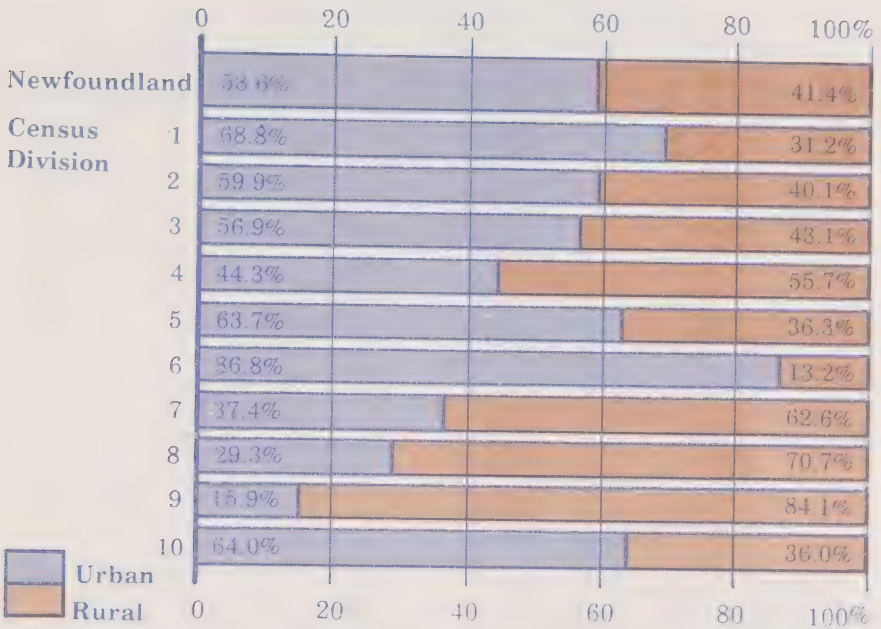
Population Distribution



Growth 1976-81



Urban/Rural 1981



Harbour Arterial, St. John's



Pouch Cove

Age and Sex



Labrador Heritage Folk Festival

Housing 1981

Tenure	Owned 81%		Rented 19%
Type	Single detached 78%		Other 22%
Construction	Before 1945 21%	1946-70 45%	Since 1970 34%
Condition	Regular maintenance 76%		Repairs Minor 16% Major 8%
Bathrooms	None 4%	One 79%	2 or more 17%
Heating fuel	Oil 51%		Electricity 34% Other 15%
Occupancy	Less than 1 year 12%	1-5 years 29%	More than 5 years 59%

Selected Ethnic Origins 1981

British	519,620	Scandinavian	640
French	15,355	Chinese	632
Native Peoples	3,225	Pacific Islands	530
German	1,640	Indo-Pakistani	520
Dutch	675	Italian	410

Where Newfoundlanders Live 1981

Total 662,465



1. Newfoundland	530,355		Out	In
2. Prince Edward Island	950	1.5%	1.4%	
3. Nova Scotia	18,970	15.9%	17.0%	
4. New Brunswick	5,520	5.7%	7.2%	
5. Quebec	8,340	3.7%	7.9%	
6. Ontario	69,595	34.6%	52.7%	
7. Manitoba	2,975	3.8%	3.9%	
8. Saskatchewan	1,360	1.8%	1.0%	
9. Alberta	13,885	23.1%	4.1%	
10. British Columbia	9,400	8.1%	3.2%	
11. Yukon	335	0.4%	0.2%	
12. North West Territories	780	1.4%	1.4%	

Provincial Migration 1976-81



Family Portrait 1981

Families

Total families	135,145
Husband - Wife families	121,665
Lone-parent families	13,480
Average family size	3.8
Families by number of Children	
0	28,830
1	32,225
2	35,870
3-4	29,805
5 or more	8,415

Marriages

Marriages	3,758
Average age	
Brides	24.2
Bridegrooms	26.7
Divorces	569
Average duration of marriage for divorced persons (years)	12.4



Torngat Mountains, Labrador



Roman Catholic Basilica, St. John's

Selected Religions

Roman Catholic	204,430	Presbyterian	2,700
Anglican	153,530	Moravian	2,045
United Church	104,835	Jehovah's Witnesses	2,020
Salvation Army	45,120	Baptist	1,200
Pentecostal	37,450	Adventist	775

Work

Quick Facts

Labour Force by Sex

Selected Labour Force Characteristics

Labour Force by Occupation

Getting to Work

Average Weekly Earnings by Industry

Average Total Income by Occupation



Flat Bay



Work

One of the great changes to affect the Province since the 1940's has been the great diversification and increase in opportunities for employment. Until 1890 the choice of career for most people was very simple; you could go fishing or you could leave the then colony. Only a few people could obtain work ashore in the teaching profession, in medicine, law, commerce, or the meagre public service. Every "outporter" also farmed and cut lumber but only to meet the needs of his family. Between 1900 and 1950 the development of the mining and logging industries provided alternatives to fishing for some thousands of people - although even here many combined careers in logging and fishing. On parts of the Island and especially on the Labrador, both European settlers and native peoples could sometimes gain a living from hunting and trapping, but none of these occupations provided much of a chance for young men (even less young women) to rise in life, and the incomes they earned were (as now) low and uncertain. Yet, with all this, generations of Newfoundlanders provided themselves and their families with the basic amenities of life.

As for women - they were an integral part of the labour force essential in the fishery and agriculture. Unfortunately they seldom got paid for their work. Educational standards of both males and females were extremely low and this trapped people into low-income occupations.

Since 1950 the work place has been revolutionized. As the charts in this section show, the workers in "primary production" - working in forestry, fishing or agriculture - are now a minority of the population. Managerial positions in both industry and government have increased greatly in number thus affording real career prospects, while an enormous expansion in the Public Service sector - public administration, health and education especially - has given radically different and often less arduous employment opportunities to the population.

Not all has been good however. The unemployment rate of Newfoundland and Labrador has traditionally been the highest in Canada and that problem continues. An over-proportion of women work in the sale and clerical sectors. They may, unlike their grandmothers, get paid for their work, but the average wage of women remains significantly lower than that for men.

Average weekly or annual earnings are an improvement on those paid in 1800 when a fisherman might expect to earn 30-40 dollars a year. However they remain below the Canadian average and inflation

in the 20th century has taken away much of the apparent value of those dollars. Some things do not change - medical doctors and lawyers had the largest average incomes in 1981; they had the largest incomes in the early 19th century.

As yet, most Newfoundlanders do not have to endure the large-scale impersonal industrial plants, nor the endless commuting by thousands of cars which occur in more urbanized parts of Canada such as Montreal or Toronto. As the tables show, the majority of the population live very close to their work places which are also generally small-scale and intimate, where everyone knows everyone else. Indeed Newfoundlanders in general may commute less now than they did in earlier days. In the 18th century the English and Irish fishermen had to travel 4,000 miles and more to fish every summer in Newfoundland and Labrador. In the 19th and early 20th centuries the fishermen, trappers and loggers might live only a short distance from their "plant" but they then had to row, sail or walk very long distances in order to actually work.

As a people, the inhabitants of this Province like to work, and even more, to work hard. Modern day influences have widened their choice of occupation but the unemployed have not been able to take advantage of this. Many must still migrate to the mainland to find the work which is not yet available here. Fishing, farming, logging and mining remain important to our economy but are even more important for the cultural identity which members of our society carry with them whether in Newfoundland or when on the "mainland".

Quick Facts

Work

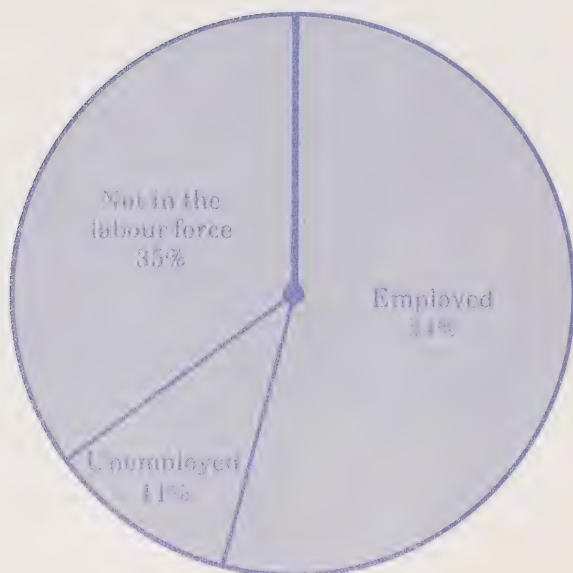
1982

Labour Force	221,000
Males	138,000
Females	82,000
Employed	184,000
Fishing Industry	19,700
Forestry Industry	4,200
Mining Industry	4,000
Total Hours Worked Weekly	6,473,000
Average Hours Worked Weekly	39
Full Time Employment	168,000
Part Time Employment	16,000
Average Weekly Wage	\$362
Unemployed	37,000
Unemployment Rate	17%
Average Weeks Unemployed	20

Labour Force by Sex 1982

Males

138,000



Females

82,000



Selected Labour Force Characteristics 1982

221,000

By Age

1.	15-19 years	9.5%
2.	20-24 years	17.7%
3.	25-34 years	31.8%
4.	35-54 years	33.3%
5.	55 years and over	7.7%



By Geography

1.	Avalon Peninsula	48.2%
2.	Burin Peninsula/South Coast	9.2%
3.	West Coast/Labrador	20.6%
4.	Central/North Eastern	22.0%



By Education

1.	0-8 years	20.4%
2.	High school	43.4%
3.	Some post-secondary	9.5%
4.	Post-secondary	17.2%
5.	University degree	9.5%



By Family Status

1.	Head of family	45.2%
2.	Spouse	21.7%
3.	Single children	21.7%
4.	Unattached individuals	6.4%
5.	Other	5.0%



Labour Force by Occupation 1982



Males
138,000



Females
82,000



	Males	Females
1. Managerial, Professional	18%	24%
2. Clerical	5%	32%
3. Sales/Service	18%	32%
4. Primary occupations	14%	1%
5. Processing	17%	7%
6. Other	28%	4%

Getting to Work

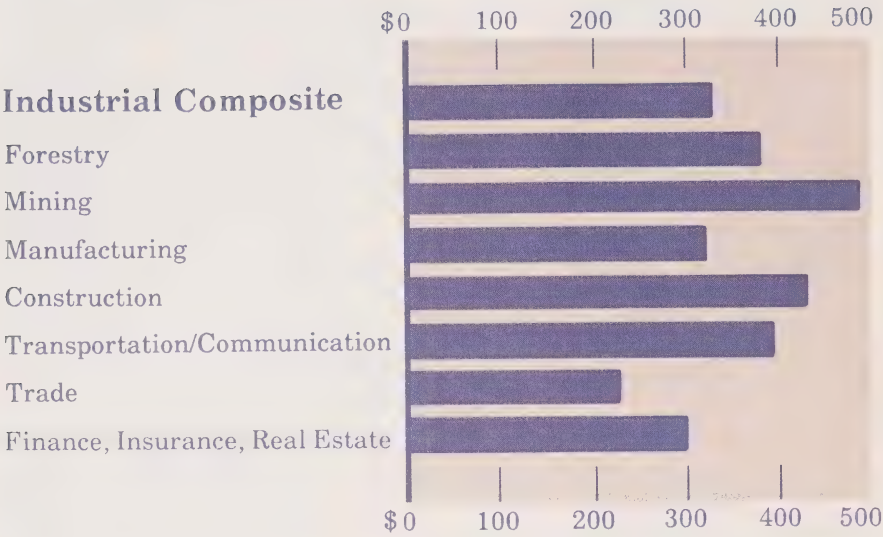
How		Distance	
Driving alone	45%	Less than 1 mile	21%
Driving with passenger	10%	1-2 miles	27%
Riding as passenger	20%	3-5 miles	20%
Shared driving	5%	6-12 miles	17%
Public transportation	4%	13-22 miles	8%
Walking	16%	23 and more	7%

Time	
Less than 13 minutes	54%
13-22 minutes	27%
23-32 minutes	10%
33 and more	9%

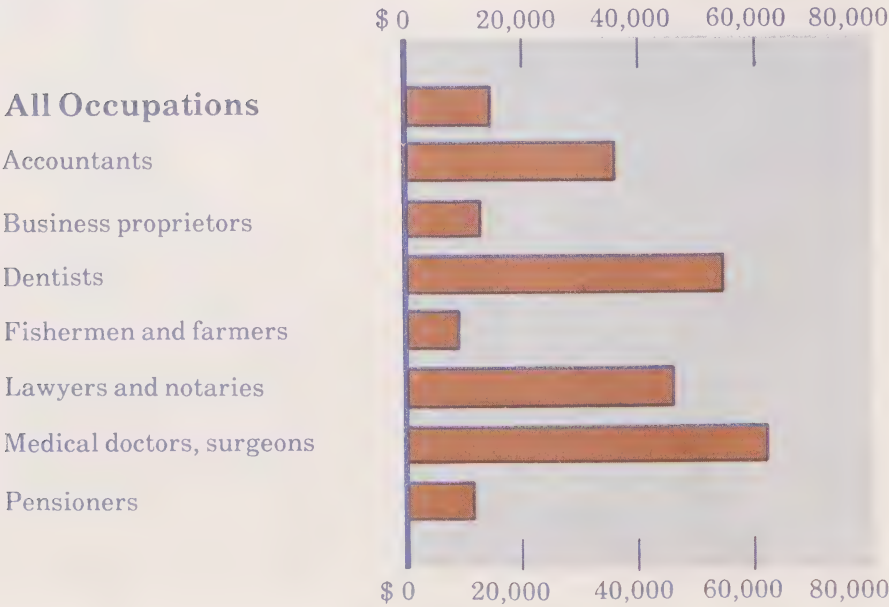


Vikings

Average Weekly Earnings by Industry 1981



Average Total Income by Occupation 1980



Education

Quick Facts

Highest Level of Schooling

Size of Schools

Population With Grade Eleven

Population With Post-secondary

Population With University Degrees

Teachers

Education Expenditure

Enrolment

School Busing





Education

Newfoundland is rich in natural resources - of the sea, the land and the forests; she is also rich in human resources, the abilities of her population to think, imagine and work. Her natural resources have been exploited for centuries, but her human resources have only recently been used as they could be. The human mind can only be used to the degree that it is educated, for education is the key to understanding, but until recently Newfoundland and Labrador was so poor that educational facilities were very limited. Except for the large St. John's schools, the children lacked text books, their schools were primitive and small and, as late as 1949, 778 schools were "one room, sole charge" (buildings where one teacher tried to teach all age groups). The qualifications of these teachers were often little better than those of the students. In 1949 a child in a one - room school had only one chance in 700 of obtaining a Grade 11 education and in many areas a secondary education was unavailable. For most of the people, post-secondary education - even trades training - could hardly be considered. Thus people were trapped in the occupations which their forefathers had known - the unskilled or semi-skilled manual jobs.

It was a vicious circle. Because people had little education they were fit only for the lower skilled jobs; partly because our labour force lacked modern skills it was difficult to attract other industries and because we could not attract modern industry we could not provide the population with a wide choice of progressive careers.

Over the last 30 years there has been a transformation of our educational system. All children can now obtain a Grade 12 education in modern schools reasonably equipped with teaching materials and they are taught by well qualified teachers who have studied their subjects long and well at Memorial University or elsewhere. Many will now complete their Grade 12 program and go on to University, or to Trades or Fisheries colleges where they will learn skills to equip them for a wide variety of careers. Because our population is increasingly better educated they are able to compete with people of the mainland for every type of occupation.

The importance of education in the Province can be measured in many ways. The provincial education budget is nearly half a billion dollars which represents 25 per cent of the provincial budget. In addition the federal government spends millions on various post-secondary programs.

The curriculum in earlier days consisted of little more than reading, writing and arithmetic with some religious instruction thrown in. Today there are no less than 40 different courses available to high school students, while the post-secondary institutions offer courses of a variety and excellence to match the best obtainable in Canada.

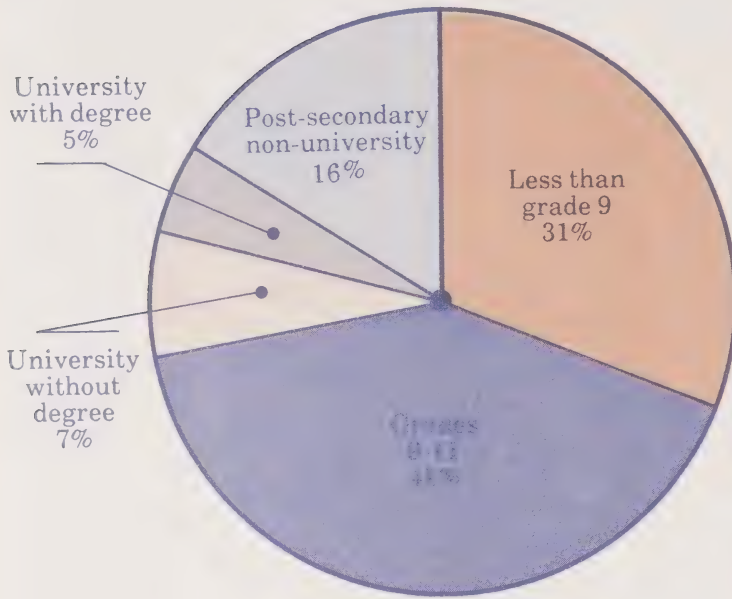
The population has taken advantage of these great opportunities. In 1949 only 50 per cent of children of school age were actually attending school. Today no one leaves until the age of 15. Because of our past deficiencies the average level of education in the population still lags behind that of the national average. However, there has been a steady decline in the proportion of the population 15 years of age and over with Grade 8 education or less, down from 45 per cent in 1971 to 32 per cent in 1981. More than 28 per cent of the population over age 15 have acquired some form of post-secondary education either at university or in community colleges and technical institutes. Educational skills are increasing steadily and through the education of the younger generation will come the economic, intellectual and social progress of Newfoundland and Labrador in the years to come.

Quick Facts

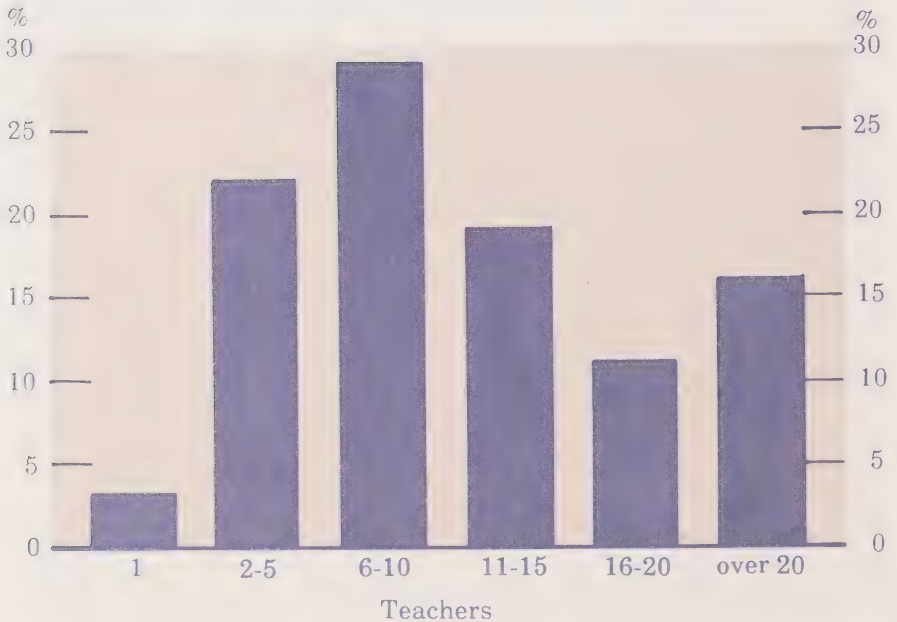
Education

Number of Schools (1982-1983)	643
Number of One-room Schools	20
Number of Students	142,517
Number of Teachers	7,452
Number of Students per Teacher	23
Number of Students Bused to School Daily	80,000
Expenditure per Student (1981-1982)	\$2,138
Provincial Government Expenditure on Education (1982-83)	\$496,000,000
Proportion of total Provincial Budget	26%
Graduates from Grade 11 (1981-1982)	7,304
Graduates from Memorial University (1982)	1,639
Persons Completing Courses at Other Post Secondary Institutions (1981-1982)	8,007

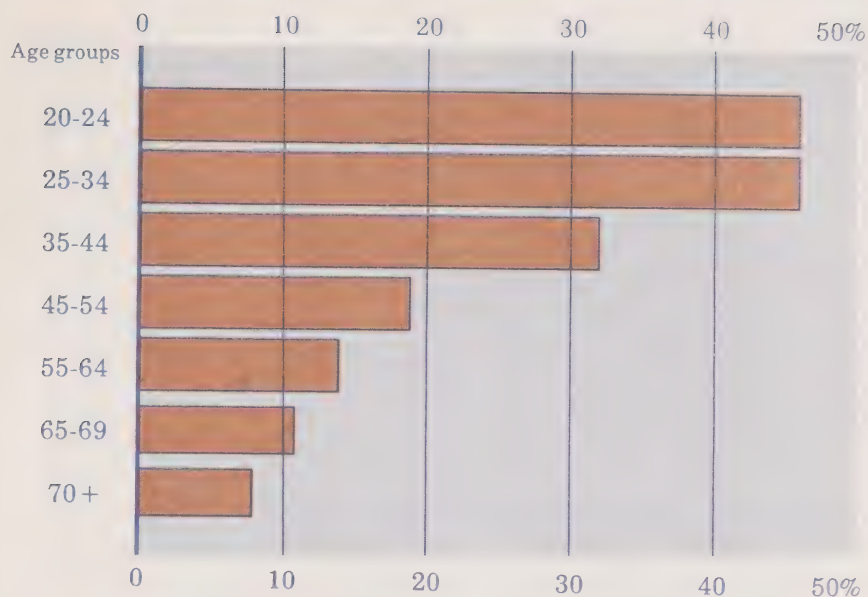
Highest Level of Schooling



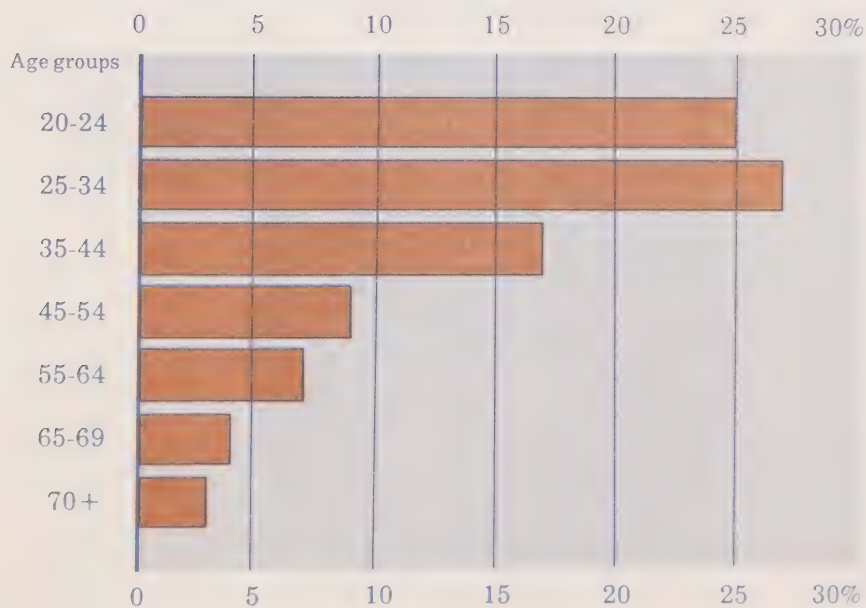
Size of Schools



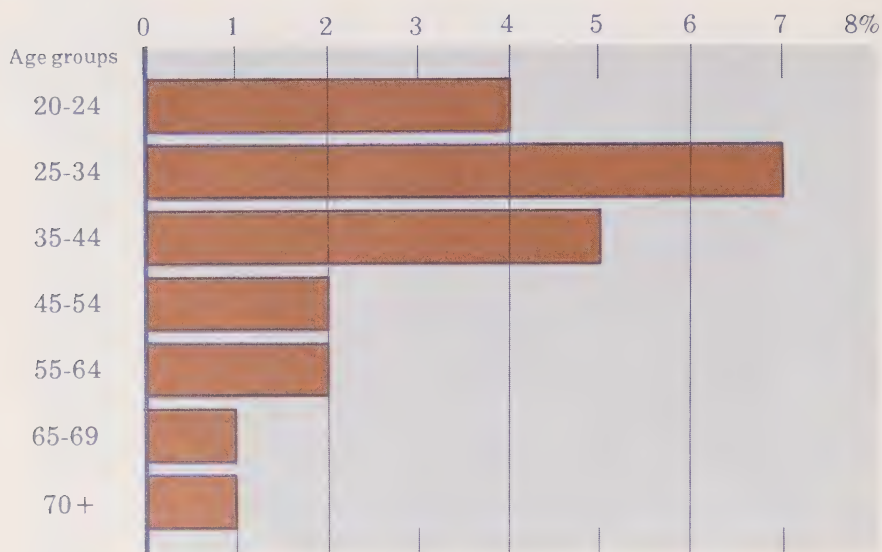
Population with Grade Eleven



Population with Post-secondary



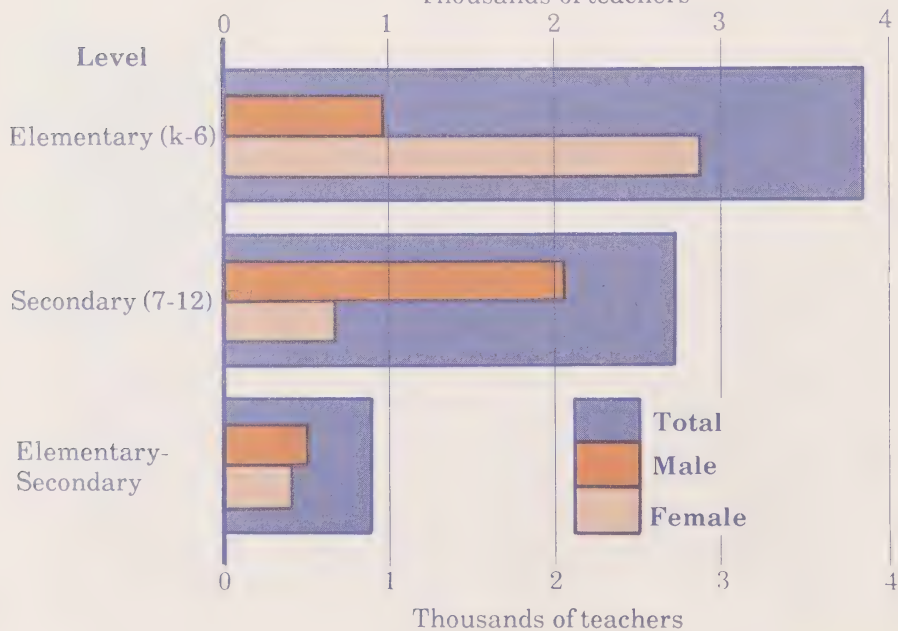
Population with University Degrees



Teachers 1982-83

Total 7,452

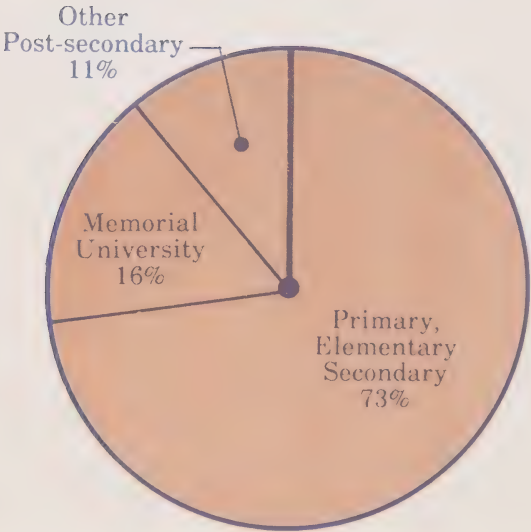
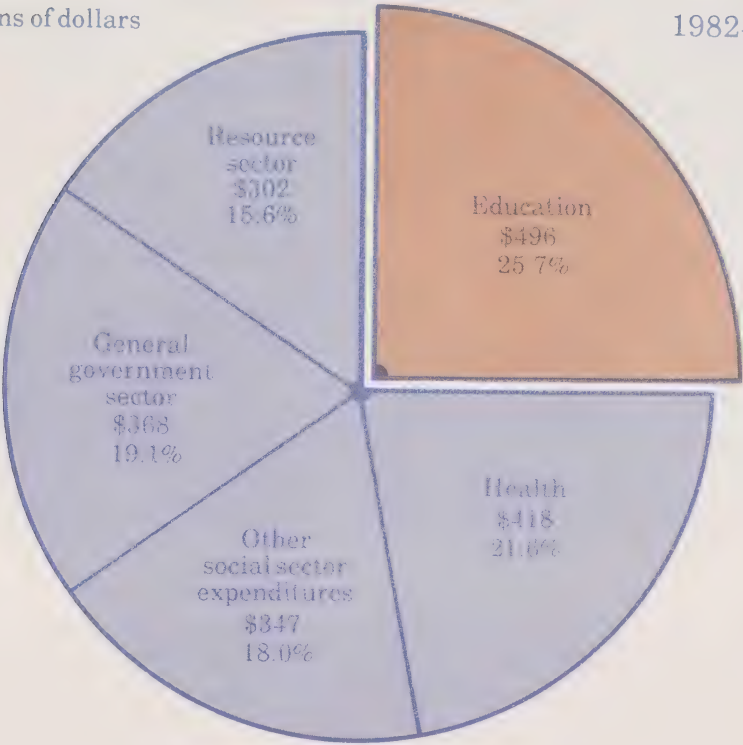
Thousands of teachers



Provincial Government Expenditure on Education

Millions of dollars

1982-83





Seagull

Enrolment

Grade	Students
K-3	42,776
4-8	59,193
9-12	32,113
Other	8,435
Total	142,517
University (full-time and part-time)	13,147
Other Post secondary	11,914

School Busing

There are 1,000 school buses

There are 80,000 children bused daily

School buses travel 25,000 miles daily

School busing will cost \$17,000,000 - 1982-83

Health

Quick Facts
Selected Health Problems
Causes of Death
Life Expectancy
Visits
Vital Statistics





Health

*" The air of Newfoundland is wholesome good,
The fire as sweet as any made of wood,
The waters very rich, both salt and fresh,
The earth more rich, you know it not less,
When all are good, fire, water, earth and air
What man made of these four would not live there."*

Compared to living conditions in the crowded and unhealthy towns of Europe, or the scourges of dysentery, black or yellow fever in the West Indies, Newfoundland was for the fishermen of early days a "wholesome place to live". In general, Newfoundlanders were noted for their longevity, their physical strength and capacity for endurance.

However, by the 20th century, poverty, overcrowded and unsanitary housing, bad diets and ignorance of public health were common in the colony. The people suffered from many types of disease. St. John's had twice known outbreaks of cholera and many of the people suffered at some time from diphtheria, croup, scarlet fever, hepatitis and the diseases of malnourished children, rickets or scurvy. As in the rest of North America and Europe puerperal fever and a host of other infections killed many young mothers and children and most feared of all were smallpox and tuberculosis. Arthritis and heart disease were already noted as very common in the colony; as there were few dentists, many Newfoundlanders had problems with their teeth.

Conditions were especially bad in remote and isolated outposts and worst of all on the Northern Peninsula and along the Labrador coast. There were few doctors to treat the sick and few useful drugs for people to use. Even worse, there were few trained and skilled nurses except in St. John's or where the Grenfell Mission operated.

Contrast these conditions with those prevailing in 1983. Arthritis and heart disease remain common but most of the infectious diseases which once afflicted the people have been brought under control. Infant and maternal mortality rates are now as low as in most other parts of North America, skilled physicians and nurses can be found throughout the province, and a wide range of what were quite recently called "miracle drugs" is available to combat many diseases.

Perhaps even more important has been the improvement in Newfoundlanders' general living standards which enables them to live in better housing, to eat better food, and to wear more suitable clothing, as well as in their level of education which enables them to understand how they might avoid catching many diseases.

Most of this health revolution has occurred over the past 40 years but although it has worked undoubted wonders for the health of the people, something of the ancient folklore and self healing of the people has been lost. The modern physician has replaced the older "folk healers" - the seventh sons of seventh sons and the witches, popularly thought to have great knowledge and powers of healing - and the local cooper, blacksmith or carpenter who also doubled as a rough surgeon, dentist and bone setter. The old-style lay midwife - "Aunty Betty" or whoever - who had few aids but much local knowledge and experience, has been replaced by childbirth in antiseptic hospitals, in many cases far distant from home, where the mother is surrounded by unfamiliar faces. As the health care system has developed, communal and "self help" healing has inevitably declined.

Nevertheless Newfoundlanders still take an intense interest in voluntary medical work either through the large national or local institutions like the Newfoundland Lung Association, NONIA, the Canadian Heart Foundation or the Canadian Diabetic Association, or as volunteer workers in hospitals and clinics throughout the province.

Perhaps the greatest innovation of all has been the introduction of the Government Medical Care Plan, which gives equal access for medical treatment to all people regardless of economic status, and the introduction of Old Age Pensions and other social security programs which allow the disabled, the chronically ill and the aged to live in at least basic comfort.

Quick Facts

Health

Life Expectancy at Birth

Male	71 years
Female	77 years

Population with acceptable level of fitness (1979)	60%
--	-----

Population 15 years and over who drink (1979)	64%
---	-----

Population 15 years and over who smoke (1979)	48%
---	-----

Average Number of Days Lost Due to Illness each Year (1979)	6 days
---	--------

Innoculations by Public Health Nurses (1981)	59,000
--	--------

Home Visits by Public Health Nurses (1981)	97,000
--	--------

Provincial Government Expenditure on Health (1982-83)	\$418,000,000
---	---------------

Proportion of Provincial Budget	22%
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Cost Per Capita	\$726
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Cost per Ambulance Trip (1981-82)	\$123
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Cost per Air Ambulance Trip (1981-82)	\$1,348
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Cost per Hospital Bed Day (1981-82)	\$299
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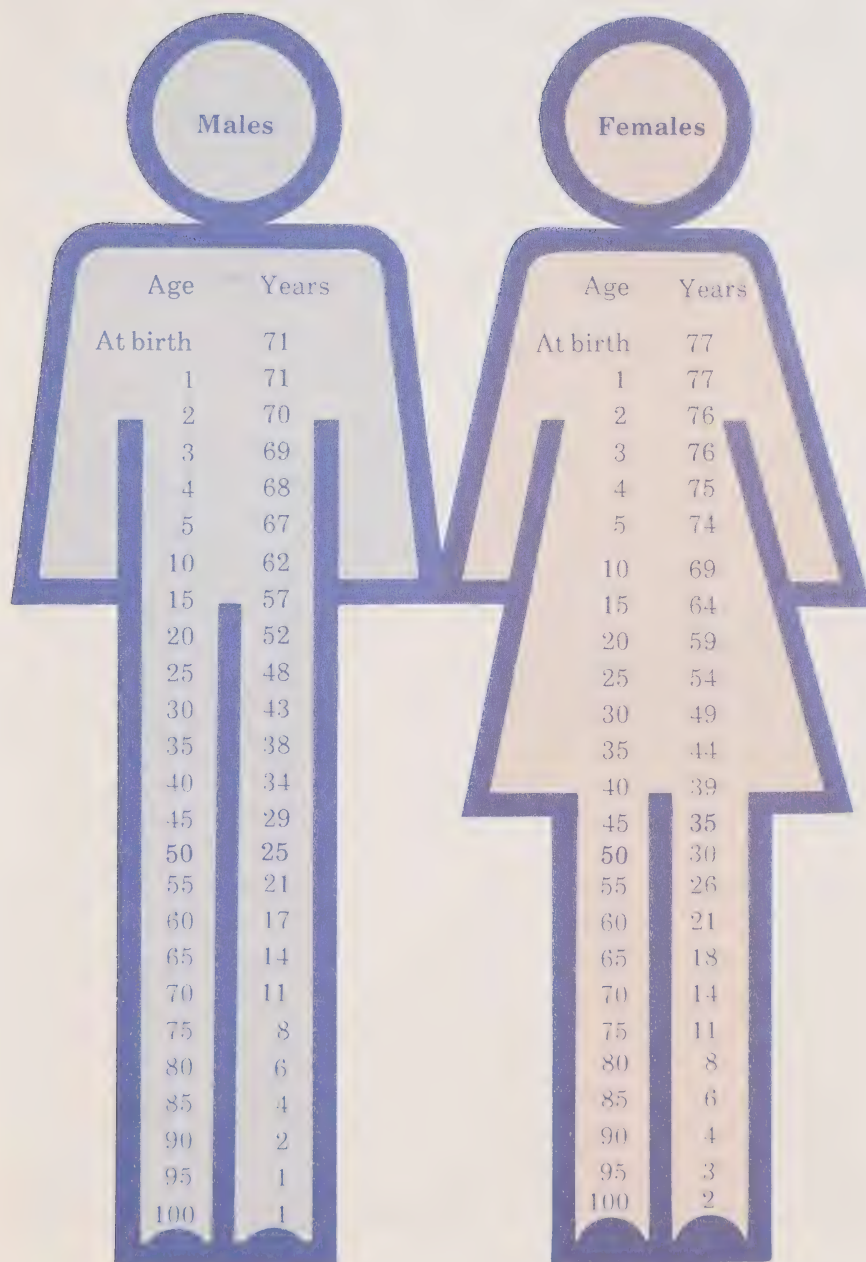
Selected Health Problems

Arthritis and rheumatism	10%	Hearing disorder	5%
Sight disorder	8%	Heart disease	4%
Hypertension	7%	Mental disease	4%
Limb and joint disorders	7%	Ulcers	3%
Dental trouble	6%	Diabetes	2%

Causes of Death

Circulatory System	1,510
Heart Attacks	641
Other forms of Heart Disease	456
Strokes	256
Other Circulatory	157
Neoplasms and Tumors	730
Cancer	715
Other	15
Respiratory	204
Bronchitis, Emphysema, etc.	89
Pneumonia and Influenza	95
Other Respiratory	20
Accidents	266
Traffic	93
Digestive System	99
Other	421
Total	3,230

Life Expectancy in Newfoundland

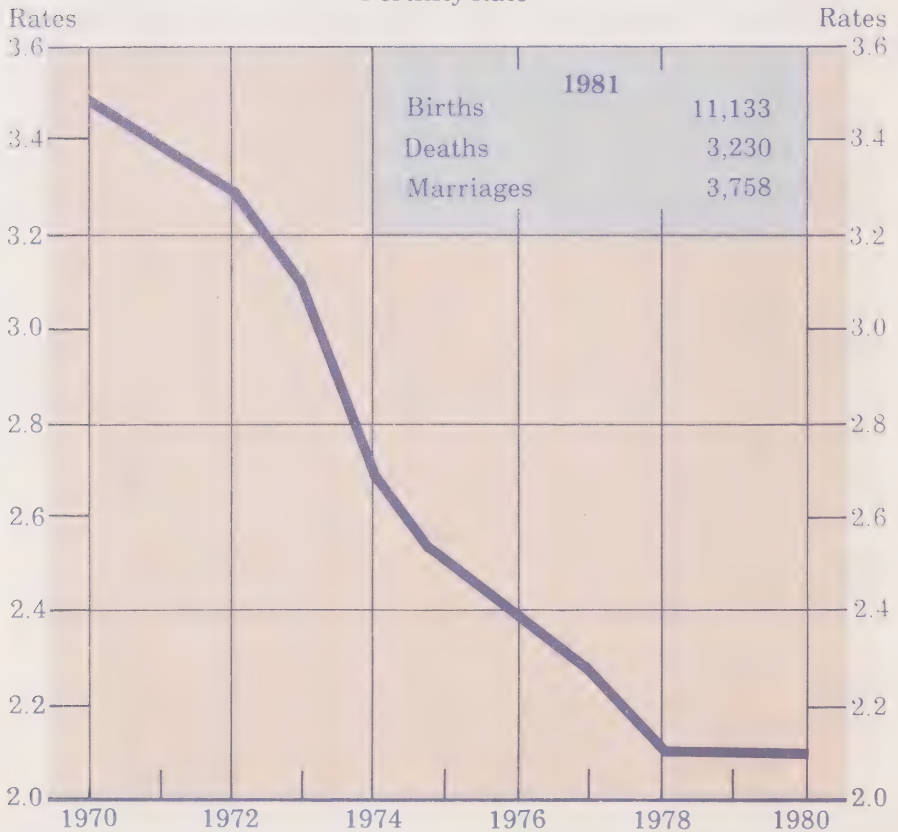


Visits

Visited Doctor in the Last Year		Visited Dentist in the Last Year	
Number of visits	%	Number of visits	%
None	35	None	70
1-2	37	1-2	25
3-9	20	3-9	4
10+	7	10+	0

Vital Statistics

Fertility Rate



Fertility Rate: The total number of children a woman will bear in her lifetime.

Lifestyle

Quick Facts

Household Facilities and Equipment

Leisure Activities

Participation in Exercise Activities

Wildlife

Family Income

Family Expenditures

Food Prices

Purchasing Power of the Dollar

Communication

Transportation



Notre Dame Junction Park



Lifestyle

Since the 19th century the average income of Newfoundlanders has always been considerably lower than that of Canada as a whole. As a province it continues to have a relatively low annual income and high cost of living. Nevertheless, in comparison with their own past, Newfoundlanders are wealthier, healthier, better-educated and have access to many more luxuries and leisure goods than ever before. As the figures in this section show, Newfoundlanders have been as affected by the revolution in North American communications as any one else. They, like their mainland compatriots, are addicted to the automobile, the telephone and the television set.

Even fifty years ago almost the entire income of most families was spent on the basic necessities of life - food, clothing and shelter. The necessities still take most of our incomes but modern labour-saving household appliances, recreation and reading, and sometimes tobacco and alcohol, consume a significant part of each family's budget. The share of incomes which goes to paying taxation is also higher than ever before - but in return the Government provides levels of service in health care, education, utilities and roads unheard of by older generations.

The most popular leisure activity is a modern invention - watching television - but on the whole, Newfoundlanders engage in recreation and leisure activities which do not vary much from those enjoyed by their ancestors. Newfoundlanders new and old have always loved to mix and talk. Most people like to visit friends and relations and this reflects a prominent feature of traditional Newfoundland culture, where partying, "times", garden parties, dances and card parties have always been popular. Newfoundlanders are the greatest users of the telephone in Canada.

Until recently most Newfoundlanders had to be "jacks of all trades". Each family, of necessity, had to be able to build a house, catch and cure fish, manufacture clothing, grow vegetables and raise livestock and poultry. A significant minority enjoy working around the house and gardening - but proportionately fewer than in the old days. A large number of people now engage in recreational sports either to improve their health, or just to "enjoy themselves". This would seem to be a fairly modern innovation. Until recently most people worked in arduous and exhausting jobs. They certainly did not need more exercise in order to keep fit and, after working all day, by the time evening came they were very glad to relax and rest. Fishermen, farmers and loggers did not need much recreational exercise.

The growth of organized sports is another fairly modern affair. The wealthier classes played cricket or tennis but few communities had

proper sports facilities and the difficulty of getting from one town to another limited competitive sports and leagues such as soccer. Of course, every generation of children has had its own games - rounders was succeeded in the 1940's by the now popular softball and soccer has survived in popularity for years. Nowadays Newfoundlanders are devoted to playing and watching ice hockey but this was not always so. As new games have become popular, old games have disappeared - how many children still play at "copying" - jumping from ice pan to ice pan to see who can avoid falling in the water. Not too long ago, children played soccer with a pig's bladder wherever they could find a reasonably flat piece of land. Now it is an organized activity where the players are well equipped and Newfoundland soccer teams are prominent in Canadian games. Competitive swimming and running, gymnastics and wrestling are all new activities in Newfoundland. Nowhere can the province's increased wealth be seen more easily than in this great expansion of organized leisure activities.

On the whole Newfoundland shares a lifestyle which is common to the whole of North America, but in her love of friendship and conversation, of "going to the cabin" in the country, of hunting and fishing, she retains many of the traits that make her a recognized and distinct society.

Quick Facts

Lifestyle

Average Family Income (1981)	\$24,827
------------------------------	----------

Average Weekly Expenditure on Food For a Family of Four (October, 1982)	\$92
--	------

Population Participating in Sports	38%
------------------------------------	-----

Population Exercising Regularly	47%
---------------------------------	-----

Population doing Volunteer Work	21%
---------------------------------	-----

Households with Bicycles	34%
--------------------------	-----

Households with Camping Equipment	27%
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Households with Snowmobiles	24%
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Households with Pleasure Boats	22%
--------------------------------	-----

Average Time Spent Daily (St. John's)	
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Sleeping	8 1/4 Hours
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Travelling	1 1/2 Hours
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Watching Television	2 3/4 Hours
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Reading	1 Hour
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Visitors to Provincial Parks (1982)	2,147,000
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Visitors to Gros Morne National Park	305,000
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Visitors to Terra Nova National Park	408,000
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Visitors to Cape Spear National Historic Park	340,000
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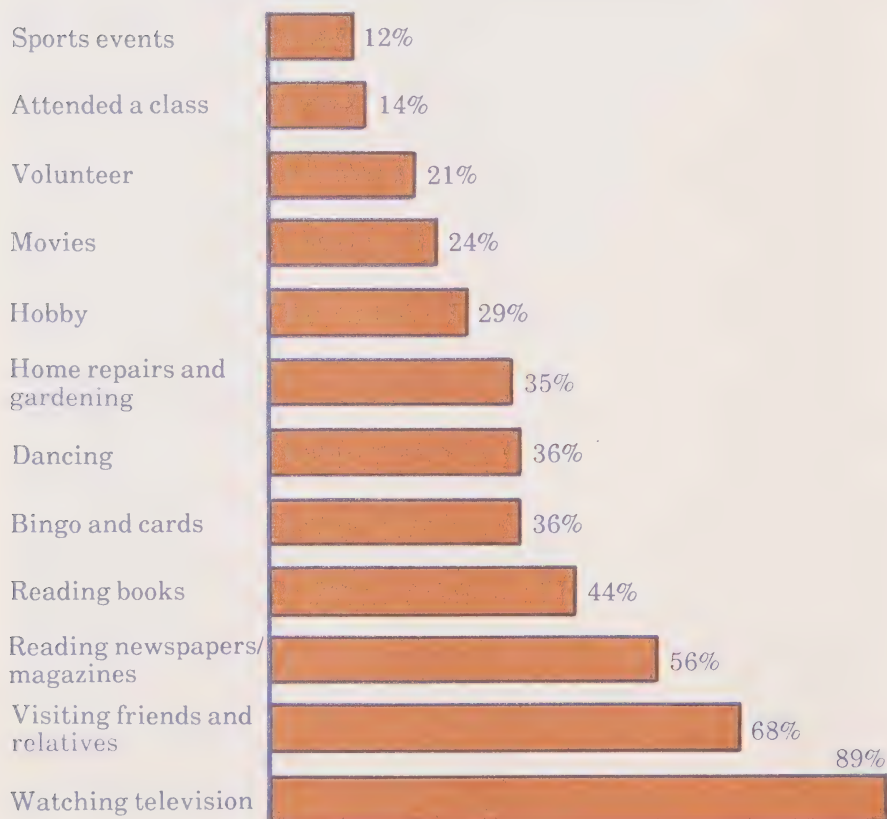
Household Facilities and Equipment

(Total 148,000 – 1982)

Appliances		Recreation Equipment	
Television	98%	Bicycles	34%
Washer	91%	Camping equipment	27%
Freezer	66%	Snow mobiles	24%
Clothes dryer	61%	Boats	22%
Cable TV	34%	Skis	11%
Dish washer	14%	Vacation home	7%

Leisure Activities

Percentage of population participating



Participation in Exercise Activities

Type

Percentage participating
in one or more

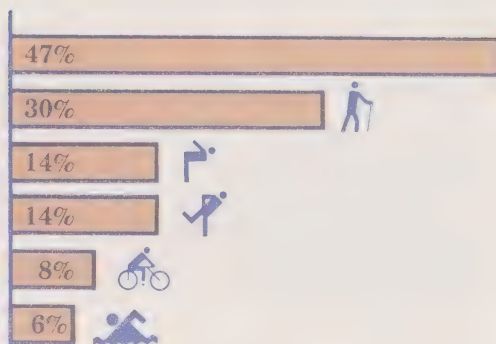
Walking for exercise

Calisthenics

Jogging and running

Bicycling

Swimming



Reasons

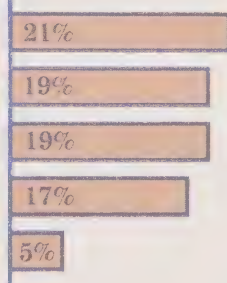
Enjoyment

Good health

Good for me

To lose weight

For release of tension



Wildlife

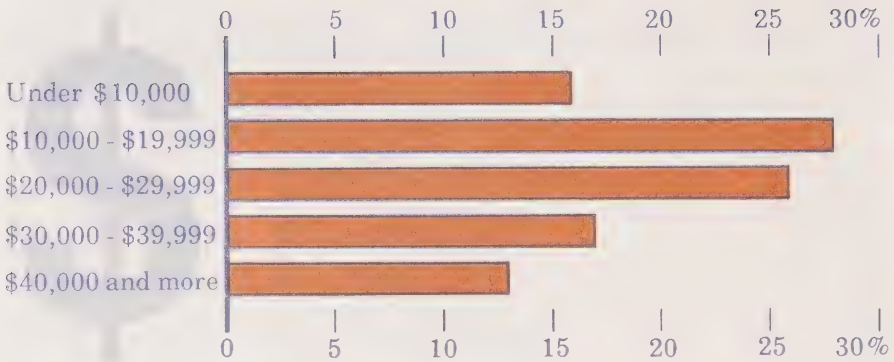
Licences and Permits

Type	Resident	Non Resident	Total
Big Game	12,630	1,065	13,695
Small Game	55,296	376	55,672
Sports Fishing	18,839	4,555	23,394
Migratory Game Birds	31,332	30	31,362



Family Income 1981

Average family income \$24,827

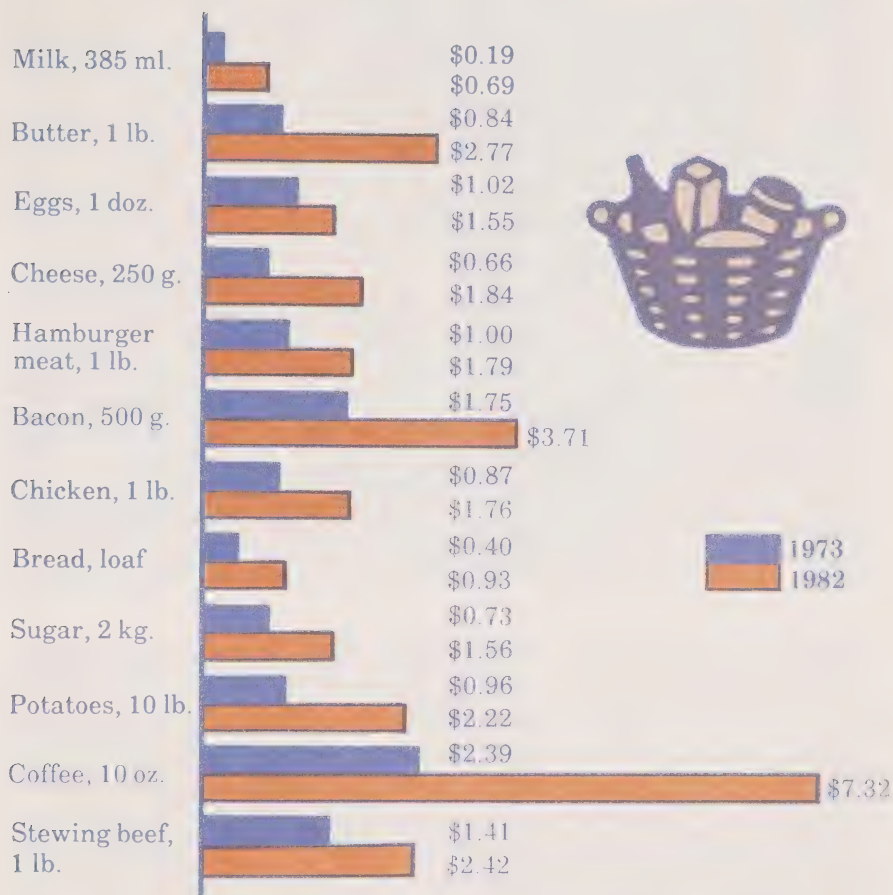


Family Expenditures



1. Food	21%	6. Recreation and Reading	6%
2. Shelter	13%	7. Tobacco and Alcohol	4%
3. Transportation	13%	8. Personal and Medical	3%
4. Household Appliances and Operations	10%	9. Taxes	13%
5. Clothing	8%	10. Other	9%

Food Prices 1973 and 1982



Purchasing Power of the Dollar 1972 to 1982



Communication

1981

Total Number of Telephones	265,000
Telephones per Hundred persons	45.1
Total Number of Telephone Calls	1,688,000,000
Total Number of Long Distance Calls	20,592,000
Number of Calls per Telephone	6,380
Number of Long Distance Calls per Telephone	99
Calls per Capita	2,869

Transportation

1982

Number of Drivers	260,000
Number of Cars	129,000
% of Households with 2+ Cars	21%
Average Kilometres Driven per Day	44
Litres of Gas Used per Day	7.4
Kilometres per Litre of Gas	6.2



Signal Hill, St. John's

Acknowledgements

Data Selection and Organization:	Statistics Canada, Newfoundland Regional Office and Newfoundland Statistics Agency
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Cartography:	Memorial University Cartographic Laboratory
Photo Credits:	Promotion Services, Department of Development Newfoundland Provincial Archives Instructional materials, Department of Education Moravian Missions

Sources

Statistics Canada
Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth
Department of Education
Department of Fisheries
Department of Health
Department of Transportation
Agriculture Canada
Environment Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Parks Canada
Revenue Canada

Know all ye
that Humfrye Gilbert of Compton in the
Countye of Devon, knight and welles beloved
servant of her most dreade Majestye Elizabeth I
of England did on the fifthe daie of August in
the year 1583 anno dominicy claime to the
New Founde Lande in the righte of the Crown
of England at the harbour of St Johns erecting
the Arms of England engraven in lead and
fixed upon a pillare of wood in that place

Be it known
to all subiects that do plante and inhabite
all manner of divers countreyes and landes,
that ye by our grace and good companie are
invited to visite, occassion and make goode cheere
in the New Founde Lande and land called
Labradore for these our four hundred year
celebrations in this year 1983 anno domini



by my hande and
with divers goode wishe
W. Anthony Taddon



Avalon Caribou



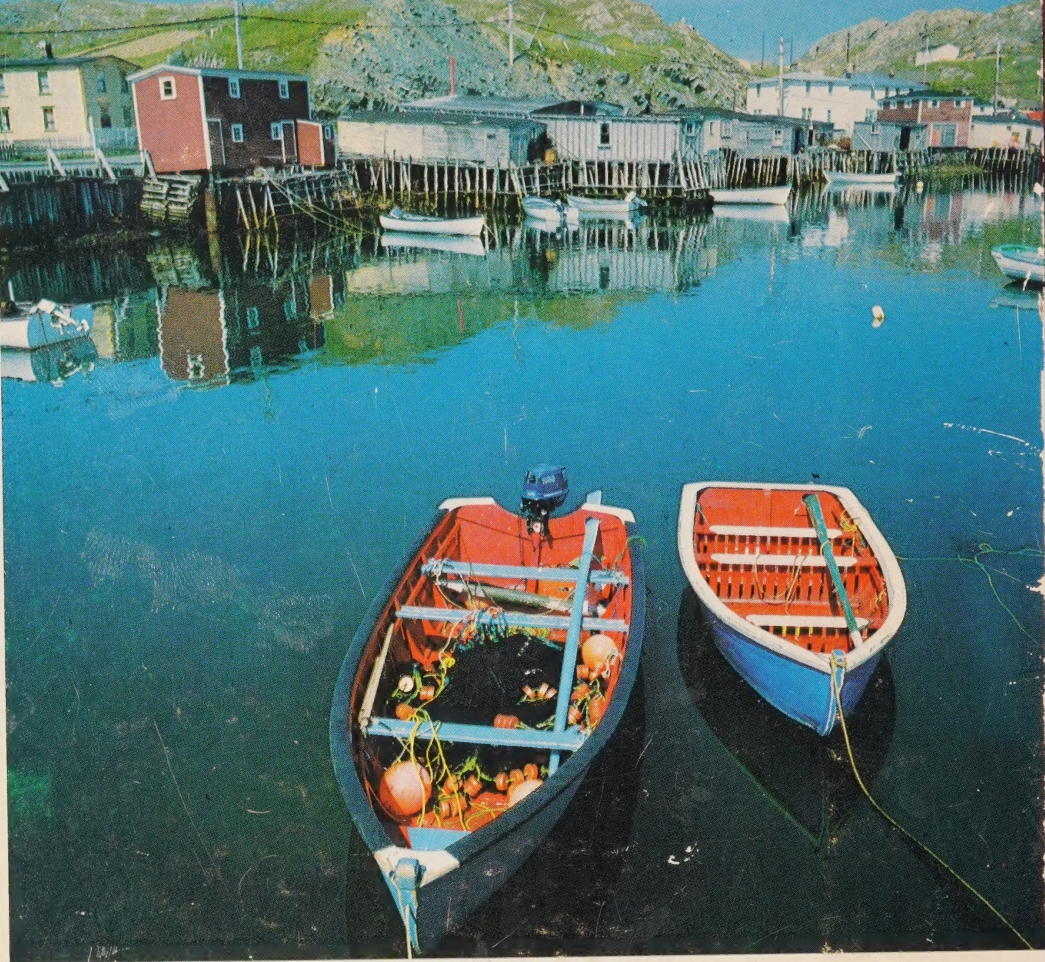
Iceberg off Twillingate



Gros Morne National Park



Trinity



Typical Newfoundland urban and rural scenes.
Courtesy of Department of Development, Promotion Services.



Statistics Canada

Statistique Canada